



Police Officers

Always Expect A Train!

NOTICE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS:

ISSUE

- A local railroad may notify your agency when they receive a report of a malfunction occurring at a highway-rail crossing of the lights, gates or bells.
- Title 49 of Code of Federal Regulations part 234, requires railroads notify local law enforcement agencies charged with traffic law enforcement on the roads affected, whether that be the State Police or Highway Patrol, Sheriff's Department, or local Police. The notification will routinely be called in to the regional communications center charged with dispatching responsibilities, or to the law enforcement agency.

ACTION:

- These notifications have caused some confusion to law enforcement agencies as to their responsibility and response to the railroad. Clearly put, the law enforcement agency contacted has the discretion as to what action it takes. The regulation in no way contains any requirement, nor implies any, as far as particular actions on the part of the law enforcement agency contacted.

IT'S ABOUT SAVING LIVES:

- The intent is simply to provide railroads notification, so they are aware, and may therefore take whatever actions they deem appropriate, if and when necessary.
- As well as notification, the railroads are required to place applicable train restrictions on the crossing, and dispatch the appropriate maintenance or repair personnel.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure, please call the Federal Railroad Administration's on staff law enforcement liaison in Washington D.C. at 202-493-6277, or FRA's Public Affairs department at 202-493-6024.

